# Living Organisms Wordlist

**Word Definition Contextual sentence Translation**

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| abdomen | **1** the front part of the body below the chest and above the pelvis. It contains the stomach and several other organs, including the [intestines](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/i/intestine.htm) and the [liver](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/l/liver.htm). **noun [count]**  **2** the back part of the three parts into which the body of insects or some other [arthropods](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/a/arthropod.htm) is divided. The other parts are the head and the [thorax](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/t/thorax.htm). **noun [count]** | *In a test called amniocentesis, a fine needle is passed through the abdomen of a pregnant woman into the amnion.*  *Grasshoppers and other insects have breathing holes along the sides of their abdomen.* |  |
| absorb | **1** to absorb liquid into a living cell through its cell membranes, for example by osmosis. **noun [uncount]**  **2** to take in nutrients through the walls of the intestines into the blood | *Root hairs absorb water containing plant nutrients.*  *Special lymph cells in the small intestine absorb fats.* |  |
| anus | the opening at the end of the alimentary canal through which solid waste passes out of the body. **noun [count]** | *Undigested food is passed out through the anus as faeces.* |  |
| bladder | the part inside the body like a bag where urine collects before being passed out of the body through the urethra.  **noun [count]** | *The ureter takes urine from the kidneys to the bladder.* |  |
| blood | the red liquid that is pumped around the body from the heart. Blood carries oxygen, hormones, and nutrients to the various parts of the body, and also helps to get rid of waste products. It consists of [plasma](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/p/plasma.htm) which contains [red blood cells](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/r/red-blood-cell.htm) and [white blood cells](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/w/white-blood-cell.htm), and [platelets](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/p/platelet.htm). **noun [uncount]** | *Oxygen is carried in the blood.* |  |
| brain | **1** the organ inside the skull in vertebrates that controls physical and nervous activity and intelligence. **noun [count]**  **2** the place in the bodies of some invertebrates that is the main centre of nerve tissue. **noun [count]** | *The illness had affected his brain.*  *The ‘brains’ of some invertebrates are no more than a network of nerve fibres.* |  |
| breathe | to take air into the lungs through the nose or mouth and let it out again.  **verb [intransitive/transitive]** | *We begin the exercise by breathing deeply (=breathing large amounts of air).* |  |
| bronchial tube | one of the tubes in the chest through which air goes into the lungs.  **noun [count]** | *In a mammal each lung is linked to the trachea by a bronchial tube.* |  |
| bronchus | one of the two main tubes coming from the trachea that carry air into the lungs. It has many smaller tubes called bronchioles connected to it. (plural bronchi) **noun [count]** |  |  |
| carbon dioxide | the gas that is produced when humans and other animals breathe out and when [fossil fuels](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/f/fossil-fuel.htm) are burned. It is used by plants in the process of photosynthesis. Carbon dioxide is a [greenhouse gas](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/g/greenhouse-gas.htm). Chemical formula: CO2 **noun [uncount]** | *Carbon dioxide dissolves in rainwater to form weak carbonic acid.* |  |
| cell | the smallest unit from which all living things are made. All cells have a [cell membrane](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/c/cell-membrane.htm), and plant cells also have a cellulose cell wall. A cell also has a nucleus that contains the [organism’s](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/o/organism.htm) genetic information, [cytoplasm](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/c/cytoplasm.htm), and very small parts called [organelles](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/o/organelle.htm).  **noun [count]** | *The brains of mammals contain millions of brain cells.* |  |
| cell membrane | the outer layer surrounding the [cytoplasm](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/c/cytoplasm.htm) of all cells. The cell membrane controls which substances go in and out of the cell. **noun [count]** | *New viruses burst out through the cell membrane, destroying the cell.* |  |
| cellular | relating to the cells of living things. **adjective** | *Oxygen is used up by cellular respiration.* |  |
| cellulose | a substance that forms the walls of plant cells and plant fibres. It is [insoluble](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/i/insoluble.htm) in water, and is used to make plastics, [explosives](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/e/explosive2.htm), paper, fabrics, and other products. **noun [uncount]** | *Cows have micro organisms in their stomachs to help them digest cellulose.* |  |
| **cell wall** | a strong layer that surrounds each cell in organisms other than animals, protecting them and giving them shape. In most plants, the cell wall is made of cellulose, and in fungi it is made of chitin.  **noun [count]** | *Chlorella is a plant-like protist with a cellulose cell wall and a chloroplast.* |  |
| **chloroplast** | the part of the cells of plants where photosynthesis takes place. It is shaped like a very small bag and it contains chlorophyll.  **noun [count]** | *Each cell of Spirogyra has a spiral-shaped chloroplast.* |  |
| chromosome | a structure that looks like a very small piece of string and that exists, usually as one of a pair, in the nucleus of all living cells. Chromosomes contain the genetic information that says whether a person, animal etc. is male or female and what characteristics they get from their parents. **noun [count]** | *During cell division each chromosome makes an exact copy of itself.* |  |
| circulatory | relating to the movement of blood around the body. **adjective** | *Smoking can lead to circulatory problems.* |  |
| cytoplasm | the substance inside the cells of living things, apart from the nucleus. It contains several different chemicals and structures. **noun [uncount]** | *Many chemical reactions take place in the cytoplasm.* |  |
| digest | to break down food in the alimentary canal into soluble substances that the body can absorb. **verb [transitive]** | *Pepsin works in the stomach to digest protein.* |  |
| digestion | the process by which food is broken down by the body into simple [soluble](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/s/soluble.htm) substances that the body can absorb and then use for growth and as fuel for energy. **noun [uncount]** | *Enzymes speed up the process of digestion.* |  |
| digestive | relating to digestion. **adjective** | *The digestive system is a tube running from the mouth to the anus.* |  |
| duodenum | the first section of the [small intestine](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/s/small-intestine.htm), just below the stomach. **noun [count]** | *The bile duct carries bile from the gall bladder to the duodenum.* |  |
| enzyme | a protein produced by all organisms that behaves as a [catalyst](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/c/catalyst.htm) (=a substance that speeds up chemical reactions but does not itself change.) **noun [count]** | *Each enzyme does a particular job, e.g. sucrase breaks down sucrose.* |  |
| epithelial | relating to the epithelium. **adjective** | *The cheek is lined with a layer of delicate epithelial cells.* |  |
| epithelium | a thin layer of cells that lines organs and cavities within the body, and forms a protective cover over openings such as cuts. **noun [count]** | *Blood capillaries have an epithelium which is only one cell thick.* |  |
| excrement | the solid waste that the body gets rid of = [faeces](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/f/faeces.htm). **noun [uncount]** |  |  |
| excrete | to get rid of waste from reactions within the body. **verb [intransitive/transitive]** | *Sweat glands excrete a small amount of salts from the blood.* |  |
| excretion | the process by which the body gets rid of waste products. Excretion includes the process of getting rid of carbon dioxide from the lungs, sweat from the [sweat glands](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/s/sweat-gland.htm), and [urea](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/u/urea.htm) from the body in urine. **noun [uncount]** | *The lungs and kidneys are organs of excretion.* |  |
| excretory | relating to excretion. **adjective** | *Urea and carbon dioxide are both excretory products.* |  |
| exhale | to breathe air out through the mouth or nose. **verb [intransitive/transitive]** | *Take a deep breath and then exhale into the tube.* |  |
| faeces | solid waste from the body = [excrement](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/e/excrement.htm). **noun [plural]** | *Blood in the faeces is a sign of disease.* |  |
| fat | **1** a soft white or yellow substance that mammals and birds store under the skin. It is used as an energy store and to protect the body against heat loss.  **noun [uncount]**  **2** a food substance like oil that is used by the body for energy.  **noun [count/uncount]** | *Surplus food is converted to fat and stored.*  *You should reduce the amount of fat in your diet.* |  |
| fibre | **1** the parts of fruit, vegetables, and grains containing cellulose that help food to pass through the body but that the body does not use. **noun [uncount]**  **2** one of the thin pieces that form the nerves and muscles in the body.  **noun [count/uncount]** | *Wholemeal bread is high in fibre.*  *A single nerve fibre can be up to 40 cm long.* |  |
| food vacuole | a space inside the cell where food is digested in some protozoa (=organisms consisting of one cell only). **noun [count]** | *Amoeba engulfs its prey to form a food vacuole in the cytoplasm.* |  |
| genetic | relating to genes or to the study of genes. **adjective** | *We inherit genetic characteristics from our parents.* |  |
| gland | a part of the body that produces a chemical substance that the body needs, for example a hormone. **noun [count]** | *The pituitary gland in the brain is often called the master gland.* |  |
| grow | **1** if plants grow somewhere, that is where they are found.  **verb [intransitive]**  **2** if you grow plants, you look after them and help them to develop.  **verb [transitive]**  **3** if bacteria or other living cells grow or are grown, they develop.  **verb [intransitive/transitive]** | *Alpine plants grow in mountainous areas.*  *You can grow your own vegetables.*  *Given the right conditions a sapling will grow into a healthy tree.* |  |
| growth | **1** an increase in the size or development of a living thing, usually as the result of an increase in the number of cells. **noun [singular/uncount]**  **2** a lump on someone’s body that is caused by a disease. **noun [count]** | *Vitamins are essential for normal growth.*  *The doctors found a cancerous growth in the liver.* |  |
| growth hormone | a hormone that helps the process of growth in animal and plant cells. In animals, it is produced in the [pituitary gland](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/p/pituitary.htm). **noun [count]** | *Excess growth hormone in humans causes giantism.* |  |
| haemoglobin | a protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen from the lungs to all parts of the body. **noun [uncount]** | *Carbon monoxide combines with haemoglobin and prevents red blood cells from transporting oxygen.* |  |
| heart | in humans and most other animals, the organ in the chest that pumps blood around the body. **noun [count]** | *I could hear his heart beating.*  *Did you know he had a weak heart?* |  |
| inhale | to breathe air, smoke, or other substances into the lungs = [breathe (sth) in](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/b/breathe.htm) opposite[exhale](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/e/exhale.htm).  **verb [intransitive/transitive]** | *We were told not to inhale the vapour.* |  |
| inherited | inherited characteristic, inherited chromosome passed from parent animals, plants, or other organisms to their offspring through their genes. **adjective** | *Eye colour is an inherited characteristic.* |  |
| insulate | to cover something in order to prevent heat, cold, sound, or electricity from passing through it. **verb [transitive]** | *NASA uses Teflon to insulate wires and cables.* |  |
| intestine | the long tube in the body between the stomach and the anus that is a major part of the digestive system. There are two parts of the intestine, the small intestine and the large intestine, where different stages of digestion take place.  **noun [count]** | *The lining of the small intestine has projections called villi.* |  |
| kidney | one of the two organs in the body that clean the blood by removing waste products such as [urea](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/u/urea.htm) and also control the level of water that the blood contains. The waste passes into the bladder in the liquid form of urine, which is then passed out of the body.  **noun [count]** (plural kidneys) | *Blood enters each kidney through the renal artery.* |  |
| larynx | the organ in the throat that contains the [vocal cords](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/v/vocal-cords.htm), which produce sounds.  **noun [count]** | *Men have a deeper voice than women because they have a larger larynx.* |  |
| liver | an organ in the body that changes [toxins](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/t/toxin.htm) such as alcohol into less harmful substances, and produces [bile](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/b/bile.htm), [urea](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/u/urea.htm), and [cholesterol](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/c/cholesterol.htm). The liver controls the level of glucose and [amino acids](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/a/amino-acid.htm) in the blood, and stores some important vitamins and minerals. **noun [count]** | *Excessive drinking can lead to liver failure.* |  |
| **lung** | one of the two organs in the chest that fill with air during breathing. Blood flowing to the lungs takes oxygen from the air breathed into the [alveoli](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/a/alveolus.htm) and puts in carbon dioxide which is then breathed out as a waste product. Air enters and leaves the lungs through the [bronchial tubes](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/b/bronchial-tube.htm). **noun [count]** | *He was suffering from lung cancer.* |  |
| membrane | a thin layer of tissue that covers, separates, protects, or connects cells or parts of an organism. **noun [count]** | *The eye is protected by a thin membrane.* |  |
| mitochondrion | a very small round or rod-shaped part in the [cytoplasm](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/c/cytoplasm.htm) of a cell. It contains enzymes for the respiration of food to release energy. (plural mitochondria) **noun [count]** | *Each mitochondrion has an inner folded membrane to increase the surface area.* |  |
| molecule | the smallest part of an element or compound that could exist independently, consisting of two or more atoms. **noun [count]** | *A molecule of carbon dioxide contains one carbon atom and two oxygen atoms.* |  |
| multicellular | a multicellular organism consists of many cells. **adjective** | *All multicellular organisms rely on cell division for growth.* |  |
| muscle | a piece of flesh that connects bones and produces movement of the parts of the body by contracting and relaxing.  **noun [count/uncount]** | *These exercises are good for your stomach muscles.* |  |
| muscular | **1** relating to the muscles or made of muscle. **adjective**  **2** having big muscles. **adjective** | *The stomach is a muscular bag.*  *Men are usually more muscular than women.* |  |
| nerve | one of the groups of fibres in the body that carry messages between the sense organs, the brain, and the rest of the body, communicating pain, pressure, feelings of heat and cold etc.  **noun [count]** | *The optic nerve leads from the eye to the brain.* |  |
| nervous system, the | the system of nerves that control the body and the mind. **noun [singular]** | *The nervous system works rather like a telephone system.* |  |
| nucleus | **1** the central part of an atom, consisting of protons and neutrons, and containing most of its mass. **noun [count]**  **2** the central part of a living cell that contains its DNA and controls its growth and reproduction. (plural nuclei)  **noun [count]** | *The nucleus of an atom has a positive charge.*  *The nucleus contains chromosomes.* |  |
| oesophagus | a tube that carries food from the [pharynx](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/p) to the stomach. **noun [count]** | *Mucus lubricates food as it passes down the oesophagus.* |  |
| organelle | a structure in a cell that is designed to do a particular job, for example a nucleus. **noun [count]** | *A ribosome, one organelle in a cell, is about 20 nm wide.* |  |
| organism | a living thing that is capable of growing and reproducing and consists of one or more cells. **noun [count]** | *A pest is an organism that damages crops.* |  |
| organ system | a group of organs in the body that work together to do a particular thing, for example the digestive system.  **noun [count]** | *One organ system cannot function without another.* |  |
| ovary | a tube in the body of a female mammal that takes eggs from an ovary to the uterus = fallopian tube. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| ovum | the female gamete or egg cell that can grow into a new animal after it has been fertilised. In mammals, this happens inside the female. (plural ova)  **noun [count]** | *The fertilized ovum is called a zygote.* |  |
| oxygen | an important element in the air that is a gas with no smell or taste. It makes [aerobic respiration](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/a/aerobic-respiration.htm) possible in organisms. It combines with most other elements. Chemical symbol: O. **noun [uncount]** | *Brain damage occurs when the supply of oxygen to the brain is interrupted.*  *Blood absorbs oxygen from the air in the lungs.* |  |
| plasma | the yellow liquid that is part of blood. **noun [uncount]** | *Blood plasma contains various dissolved substances.* |  |
| protein | **1** an organic compound that is made of [amino acids](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/a/amino-acid.htm). Proteins contain carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, and nitrogen.  **noun [count]**  **2** food such as meat, eggs, and milk that contain proteins and that people need in order to grow and be healthy. Protein is very important for building tissues such as muscles and for keeping them healthy. **noun [uncount]** | *The villagers’ main source of protein is fish from the river.* |  |
| protoplasm | the substance that the cells of living things are made of. It consists of the [cytoplasm](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/c/cytoplasm.htm) and the nucleus.  **noun [uncount]** | *Organelles are found within the protoplasm of a cell.* |  |
| repair | the process of fixing something that is broken or damaged.  **noun [count/uncount]** | *We need proteins for the growth and repair of damaged cells.* |  |
| reproduce | to have babies, or to produce young animals, plants, or other organisms.  **verb [intransitive/transitive]** | *Viruses can only reproduce inside a living host cell.* |  |
| reproduction | the process of having babies or producing young animals, plants, and other organisms. The form of reproduction that involves the combination of male and female [gametes](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/g/gamete.htm), for example in most animals and plants, is called [sexual reproduction](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/s/sexual-reproduction.htm). Reproduction in which there is only one parent, for example in bacteria, is called [asexual reproduction](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/a/asexual-reproduction.htm). **noun [uncount]** | *Asexual reproduction in hydra is called budding.* |  |
| reproductive | relating to sex, or to the process of having babies or producing young animals, plants, or other organisms. **adjective** | *Many flowers have both male and female reproductive organs.* |  |
| reproductive cell | a male or female cell that unites with a cell from the opposite sex to form a new organism in the process of sexual reproduction = [gamete](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/g/gamete.htm). noun **[count]** | *The male reproductive cell is called a sperm.* |  |
| respiratory | relating to the process of breathing. **adjective** | *Smoking can lead to respiratory diseases.* |  |
| secrete | to produce a liquid such as saliva.  **verb [transitive]** | *Cells in the stomach lining secrete digestive enzymes.* |  |
| skeleton | the hard frame that supports the body of a human or other animal. In vertebrates it is usually made of bone that the muscles are attached to, and it protects the most important organs, for example the brain and the heart. **noun [count]** | *The skeleton of birds is very light but strong.* |  |
| skeletal | relating to the skeleton. **adjective** | *Skeletal muscles are attached to bones.* |  |
| sperm | **1** the male gamete (=reproductive cell) produced by the male sex organs that fertilizes a female egg. The sperm are contained in seminal fluid, and together they form semen. They have half the number of chromosomes as other cells in the body. A single sperm is sometimes called a spermatozoon. **noun [count]**  **2** the liquid from a man’s penis that contains sperm = semen. (plural sperm) **noun [uncount]** | *The production of sperm is controlled by hormones.* |  |
| sperm duct | a long thin tube that carries sperms away from the epidydimis in the scrotum to the seminal vesicles where they will be stored until ejaculation. **noun [count]** |  |  |
| spine | **1** the row of bones down or along the middle of the back of a vertebrate = [backbone](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/b/backbone.htm), [spinal column](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/s/spinal-column.htm), [vertebral column](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/v/vertebral-column.htm). **noun [count]**  **2** a sharp point on a plant or animal. **noun [count]** | *She felt a chill run down her spine.*  *Many cacti have sharp spines to protect them against being eaten.* |  |
| stomach | the organ at the bottom of the oesophagus where food goes after it is eaten. **noun [count]** | *She’ll feel better when she has some food in her stomach.* |  |
| sweat | liquid containing waste substances that forms on the skin when someone is hot. The evaporation of sweat helps to cool the body. **noun [uncount]** | *She wiped the sweat off her forehead with a towel.* |  |
| sweat | to produce sweat on the surface of the skin when you are hot, nervous, or ill. **verb [intransitive]** | *Trickles of sweat ran down his forehead.* |  |
| sweating | the process by which liquid containing waste produced by sweat glands forms on the skin as a result of hot conditions, physical exercise, illness, or nervousness.**noun [uncount]** | *Sweating is the body’s way of cooling itself down.* |  |
| system | **1** the body considered as a set of connected organs, tubes etc.  **noun [count]**  **2** a set of organs, tubes etc in your body that work together. **noun [count]** | *The drug stays in your system for hours.*  *The circulatory system consists of the heart and blood vessels.* |  |
| thorax | **1** the part of the body between the neck and the waist. **noun [count]**  **2** the middle part of the body of an insect or [arachnid](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/a/arachnid.htm) that its legs and wings are joined to. **noun [count]** | *The thorax is surrounded by the rib cage.*  *Spiders have a fused head and thorax.* |  |
| tissue | large numbers of similar cells working together. The four main types of tissue are nerve tissue, muscle tissue, [connective tissue](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/c/connective-tissue.htm), and epidermal tissue. **noun [uncount]** | *Connective tissue helps to hold other tissues together.* |  |
| trachea | the tube at the back of the throat that goes from the [larynx](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/l/larynx.htm) to the [bronchi](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/b/bronchus.htm). Air travels down it into the lungs = [windpipe](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/w/windpipe.htm). **noun [count]** | *The trachea has rings of cartilage which keep it open.* |  |
| unicellular | a unicellular organism consists of one cell only. Amoebas are unicellular organisms. **adjective** | *Most unicellular organisms live in water.* |  |
| ureter | one of the two tubes that carry urine from the kidneys to the bladder in most mammals, or to the place where waste collects in some other vertebrates.  **noun [count]** | *Urine passes from the collecting ducts of the kidney into the ureter.* |  |
| urethra | in most mammals, the tube that carries urine out of the body. **noun [count]** | *In male mammals the urethra also carries sperm during intercourse.* |  |
| urine | a liquid that contains waste products such as [urea](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/u/urea.htm) and salts from the body that are filtered out through the kidneys. Urine collects in the bladder and passes from the body through the urethra.  **noun [uncount]** | *Glucose in the urine is a symptom of diabetes.* |  |
| vacuole | a space inside a cell, filled with air, food, or waste products. **noun [count]** | *Plant cells contain large, permanent vacuoles.* |  |
| vascular | **1** relating to the blood vessels in the body. **adjective**  **2** vascular tissue in plants carries water, mineral salts, and food from one part of the plant to another. **adjective** | *Blood is transported around the body by the vascular system.*  *The vascular bundles of stems contain phloem tissue.* |  |
| vein | **1** one of the blood vessels in the body that carry blood towards the heart.  The blood in nearly all veins, except for the [pulmonary vein](http://www.macmillanschooldictionary.com/definitions/p/pulmonary-vein.htm), has a low level of oxygen, as the oxygen has been used in respiration. **noun [count]**  **2** one of the tubes that carry substances through a plant. **noun [count]** | *The hepatic portal vein carries food from the intestines to the liver.*  *Leaves contain a network of veins* |  |
| vertebra | one of the small bones that form a row down the centre of the back. (plural vertebrae) **noun [count]** | *Each thoracic vertebra has a long neural spine for muscle attachment.* |  |
| vessel | a tube in people, animals, or plants through which liquid flows. **noun [count]** | *He laughed so much he nearly burst a blood vessel!* |  |